

NATIONAL REPUBLICAN

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AMUSEMENTS.

NATIONAL THEATRE—CANTON. Minstrels.
PETER OPERA—HARRISON. Minstrels.
LONDON THEATRE—John B. Gough.
THEATRE COMIQUE—Variety.
COLUMBIA ART GALLERY—Miscellaneous of Art—Ad-
mission free, except on Mondays, Wednesdays
and Fridays.

WASHINGTON, D. C., MARCH 28, 1881.
Population of the National Capital.....180,000.

THE XXXIXth session session has subsided.

Stripped of all verbiage, the issue in Virginia is the Readjuster vs. the repudiator.

The Bourbon party of Virginia are like pollywogs—they are neither fish nor frogs, but are prepared to swim in one direction or jump in the other, according to circumstances.

Who will take the initiative in calling a meeting of the survivors of the New Orleans and Mobile squadrons of 1862, now in this city, to make arrangements to attend the unveiling of the Farragut statue in a body?

And now the Germans of Boston have feasted ex-Secretary Schurz. This may have been the national fair question. It should be remembered, however, that, whatever they may eat in Boston, there is no doubt that the highest type of human being is produced there.

The advertisement, "furnished rooms in a private family," is often noticed in the papers. The accommodations cannot be as spacious as they would be in the public family, which we presume the Departments might be called. But why "in" and not "with" a private family? &c.

Questions and reply from the Capital: "The more we strive to elucidate this complex medley of incongruous problems the worse we get things mixed."—Fourth column, fourth page. "I presume, my friend, that you will gather whatsoever impressions may please you from those concluding sentences."—Fifth column, fourth page.

The survivors of the New Orleans and Mobile squadrons are requested to send their names and addresses to the Admiral of the Navy, D. D. Porter, in order to be served personally with invitations to attend the ceremonies of the unveiling of the Farragut statue on the 23d proximo. Editors throughout the country are requested to notify and invite the gallant survivors of the Gulf squadron of 1862 to be present on the occasion referred to.

The obstructionists have as usual given the Republicans the advantage gratis. Senator Mahone's speech to-day will clearly reveal to the country the honesty and fairness of the Readjusters, and bring confusion to the Bourbon repudiators of Virginia. The Democratic Senators deserve thanks for giving Senator Mahone the opportunity to explain this question at a time and place where it will attract universal attention.

The beautiful consistency of the Democratic press has an example in their arguments against keeping a reserve fund in the Treasury. When resumption was contemplated no amount of gold short of the outstanding circulation would do. Now they say it is an "old fogey idea" to keep any reserve. The fact is that a safe figure twenty-five per cent. reserve was enough then, and is none too little to keep on hand now.

The Chicago Times has drawn out the Northern Democracy, and the result shows a decided majority in favor of keeping the good old name and standing by the grand old principles. The only new feature projected by the dear old patriots is that the "local question" of tariff is to be given the particular prominence in the next campaign. But they love the old name and will stick by it. There is only one thing to remark at the present time about the Northern Democrats. The Southern Democracy always dominated the pollywogs of the North, and always will. And the South is taking—yes, has taken—a new departure.

JOHN S. CLARK says that Washington should have a theatre which should be equal in all its appointments to any in the country, and in size a little larger than Wallack's. He thinks the best site would be either where the Quartermaster-General's Office now is, or the Corcoran building. It does seem as if some of our public-spirited citizens ought to move in this matter. Some years ago a public meeting was called to consider the subject of erecting an opera-house here, and a committee was appointed to select a site. When the committee met it was found that every man had a lot that he wanted to dispose of, and, as the opera-house could not be built upon all of the lots, the project fell through. The sites mentioned above could hardly be secured, but there are other eligible localities which might be made available, and the matter should be agitated without delay.

The Senate Struggle.
To-day will commence a struggle in the Senate for the maintenance of one of its chief prerogatives, viz: The right to choose its own officers. The minority say that it will force the retention of those officers who were chosen by a majority which came in two years ago, and which has now disappeared. Except the right to judge of the election, qualification, and return of its own members the Senate has no prerogative which it regards as more sacred than its right to say what officers shall record its proceedings and maintain order under its direction. The result, no matter how long it may be postponed, will be as the majority has determined.

General Mahone's Speech.
If General Mahone is well enough to-day the Senate and the country will hear from him. He will give proper answer to the ruffianly assaults made upon him for refusing to have his course marked out for him by his implacable enemies. He will give voice to the opinions and wishes of his constituents, and no one who hears him or reads his speech will be left in any doubt as to his honesty on State affairs or his patriotism in things pertaining to the Nation.

The President's Indiscreet Spokesman.

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We find it difficult to choose among the many conflicting statements put forth in those public journals which claim to speak by authority for the President concerning the causes which led the Executive mind to the selection of Mr. Robertson as the generalissimo of the administration forces in New York. One journal had it that the New York Senators had quietly winked and silently nudged and mysteriously conspired for Robertson's nomination by way of pleasing the baker's dozen in the New York Legislature who, representing all there was of the Republican opposition to Senator Conkling's leadership, were ashamed to be counted, and therefore hid their insignificance safely out of sight among the so-called "machine men" who voted for Mr. Platt for the Senate. This we know to be false. Other statements, equally silly, are made, evidently to take away as much as possible the appearance of hostile rudeness toward the New York Senators which seemed to characterize Mr. Robertson's nomination. We pass these small efforts by, and come to the declarations made by the President's trusted friend, Mr. E. V. Smalley, in his dispatch from Washington to the New York Tribune, and which appeared in that journal on Saturday last.

Mr. Smalley leaves no room to doubt that he thinks he knows of what he speaks. His manner is positive, and authoritative to the point of Podsnapianism. If he correctly understands the matter the President has all along intended to "recognize all elements of the party which contributed to his success last fall," and to "do all in his power to heal the old factional fight," &c. In furtherance of this generous intention he has, says this friend, "made up his list of appointments from representative men of the two Republican elements in the State."

The distribution among the "elements" strikes one as did the division of the oysters where one side received only the shells. However, we hope there has not been a cool and deliberate effort to divide up the duties and responsibilities of publication as they were the lot of the campaign. The Tribune, for which Mr. Smalley writes, has become so abandoned as a servant of the new machine that it talks loosely of "the extreme or nincompoop wing of civil-service reform theorists," but let us hope that such depravity has not yet reached the White House. Mr. Smalley felicitates his readers that the spoils have been divided between the "elements," "if the factions continue to fight after this it will not be his (the President's) fault." If this is really by authority it presents a gloomy view of the future.

It ignores the vital question involved in Robertson's appointment, and simply counts noses, to see if the President has not appointed to office from the friends of Senator Conkling as many as from his enemies. The real question is very remote from this. Mr. Conkling has never been an office-seeker. The real objection to the appointment of Mr. Robertson is not that it was not giving an office to an adherent of that Senator, but that it was inviting all who want patronage to enlist in a political crusade for that Senator's destruction. This does not interest alone the parties immediately engaged in the conflict. It need not be expected that the Republicans of New York will see their great leader dragged as a captive at the chariot-wheel of any chief outside of New York. Least of all will they obey the orders of Mr. Robertson, who swindled them out of the vote they entrusted him with at Chicago. If these words are based on the truth, there is great danger that the party in New York may suffer disaster in resisting the tyranny sought to be practiced upon it. It is this unnecessary strain the party in New York is to undergo which should give the President pause. We hope the Tribune correspondent may find some time to investigate and report upon this aspect of the case.

But Mr. Smalley did not stay his explanation at the point we have reached. Stirred by the exhilarating atmosphere of the triumph he could not resist the temptation to tell us why this blow had been struck. It was not necessary; but he makes love to his theme and rushes on to the true explanation. His harmony theory suffers in the supplemental story; but then what matters that? The fantastic and bewildering performances, commencing with the invitation of Senator Conkling to Mentor to confer on public affairs, and winding up with a public and unmistakable manifestation of a hostility which was not and is not now admitted to exist, may fittingly receive conflicting explanations from the administration organ.

But let us hasten to the central truth to which Mr. Smalley's indiscretion treats us. He says:

"Ah! but the anti-machine men get the big place," says the malcontent. "Their best man is put in the cash-house, and will control his vast patronage." Well, did any one suppose the administration idly enough to put there one of the 306 who decorated themselves with medals and pledged themselves at Chicago to keep the contest for Grant until "self-preservation is the first law of nature, and no administration can be expected to put a sharp knife in the hands of a man who has taken a vow to cut it through at the throat of the malcontent?"

Well, did any one suppose the administration idly enough to put there one of the 306 who decorated themselves with medals and pledged themselves at Chicago to keep the contest for Grant until "self-preservation is the first law of nature, and no administration can be expected to put a sharp knife in the hands of a man who has taken a vow to cut it through at the throat of the malcontent?"

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The President's Indiscreet Spokesman.

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